

Message Text

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14
ACTION SY-05

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----- 011511
R 161203Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2568

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FOR SY

AF/EX FOR AMBASSADOR BREWER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S BODYGUARDS

1. LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES DESIRE TO WITHDRAW BOTH ARMED BODY-GUARDS PROVIDED SINCE THE SPRING OF 1974 TO THE AMBASSADOR. REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL CENTERS ON INABILITY OF THE POLICE TO OBTAIN NEW POSITIONS FOR ITS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION TO REPLACE THE TWO MEN ASSIGNED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND THE SHORTAGE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS. OTHER FACTORS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED INCLUDE THE BODYGUARDS NOT ACTUALLY DOING THEIR ASSIGNED WORK OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR BEING THE ONLY AMBASSADOR WITH SUCH PERSONAL PROTECTION, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BODY-GUARDS MAY THEMSELVES HAVE REQUESTED TRANSFER BACK TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION FOR PROMOTION PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, AGREEMENT REACHED IN DECEMBER 1974 RE BODYGUARDS WAS TO HAVE LASTED FOR ONE YEAR ONLY.

2. AFTER UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTING RESOLVE PROBLEM AT WORKING LEVEL, CHARGE' AND ADMIN OFFICER CALLED ON POLICE COMMISSIONER. ABDALLA HASSAN SALIM, SEPTEMBER 13. CHARGE' NOTED THAT BOTH AMBASSADOR AND RSO PRESENTLY ON HOME LEAVE AND THAT HE AND ADMIN OFFICER WERE RELATIVELY RECENT ARRIVALS IN KHARTOUM. CHARGE' SAID HE "UNAUTHORIZED" AGREE TO WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADOR'S BODYGUARDS IN ABSENCE AMBASSADOR BREWER. IN ADDITION, CHARGE'

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COMMENTED ON HIGHLY PERSONAL ASPECTS OF BODYGUARDS FOR AMBASSADOR

AND THEREFORE URGED POLICE COMMISSIONER NOT TO WITHDRAW BODYGUARDS AT LEAST UNTIL RETURN TO POST OF AMBASSADOR BREWER. CHARGE' ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WAS PROBABLE THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD WANT TO RAISE MATTER EITHER AT HIGHER LEVEL WITHIN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OR AT FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. POLICE COMMISSIONER, WHO WAS QUITE FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, ASSURED EMBOFFS THAT HIS OFFICE PREPARED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HE UNAWARE OF ANY THREAT TO US AMBASSADOR. HE AGREED TO "FREEZE" SITUATION UNTIL AMBASSADOR BREWER'S RETURN AND HAS AGREED TO ALLOW BOTH BODYGUARDS TO STAY IN PRESENT ASSIGNMENTS AT LEAST UNTIL AMBSSADOR CAN PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN WHATEVER DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW.

4. IN CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS COMMISSIONER ABDALLA SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS RETIRED OR EX-POLICEMEN COULD BECOME ARMED BODYGUARDS FOR AMBASSADOR. APPARENTLY THIS WOULD BE ONE WAY TO GET AROUND FACT THAT ONLY POLICE AND MILITARY HERE ALLOWED CARRY WEAPONS. MOREOVER, COMMISSIONER INDICATED HIS OFFICE PREPARED SELECT FROM AMONG BEST RETIRED OR EX-POLICEMEN. THESE NEW BODYGUARDS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PAID FROM POST FUNDS. FYI PRESENT BODYGUARDS SUPPLIED BY POLICE ARE PAID BY GOS AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED OUR INVOLVEMENT OR CONTRIBUTION IN PAYING THEIR SALARIES. END FYI.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE OF SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN TO POST. BOGOSIAN

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